

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

B2 13. (amended) A ring binder according to claim 1 further characterized in that the securing elements are positioned substantially equidistant from the longitudinal axis of the engagement portion;

the securing elements depend downward from a plate member of the securing means, wherein said plate member is adapted to abut against the base member; and

the engagement portion comprises an upper end [deformably] deformable to engage the upper structure.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

B3 15. (amended) A ring binder according to claims 8 or 13 further characterized in that the engagement [member] portion is integrally formed with the plate.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (amended) A ring binder according to [claims 1 or] claim 13 further characterized in that the plate member is integrally formed with the securing elements.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

Sub C2 17. (amended) A ring binder according to claim 13 further characterized in that the engagement member is integrally formed with the securing elements and the plate member; and

the plate member is integrally formed with the securing elements.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

Sub C3 18. (twice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising:

B4 a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one integral securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure; and

a plurality of securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member,  
at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (twice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the  
ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one integral securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing elements each having a free end located at an end of the securing fastener farthest from the engagement portion, at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (amended) A ring binder as set forth in claim 19 wherein the free ends of the  
securing elements are substantially coplanar.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring  
binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one integral securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing elements each having substantially equal length, at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

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[Please amend claim 29 as follows:]

29. A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one integral securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing elements each having a free end located at an end of the securing fastener, the free ends of the securing elements being substantially coplanar, and at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

Please add the following new claim:

30. A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

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at least one integral securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure; and

a plurality of securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion,

said securing fastener being free from any intervening sleeve member between the fastener and the upper structure.